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Docket No.: 40575-182634  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Staton et al.

Application No.: 09/664533

Art Unit: 1731

Filed: September 18, 2000

Examiner: D. A. Walls

For: DEVICE AND METHOD OF USING  
EXPLOSIVE FORCES IN A CONTAINED  
LIQUID ENVIRONMENT

Conf. No.: 4644

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated March 9, 2004, the shortened statutory period being extended to July 9, 2004, by the Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows

Claims 1, 6, 17 and 25-34 are pending in this application. By this Request for Reconsideration, a Terminal Disclaimer is submitted to place the application in condition for allowance.

Applicants thank Examiner Walls for allowing claims 25, 26, 28 and 29 and recognizing claims 1, 6, 17, 27 and 30-34 as allowable if a Terminal Disclaimer is filed.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 6, 17, 27 and 30-34 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 8, 9 and 15 of U.S. Patent No. 6,176,970 to Staton et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed. In the interest of expediting prosecution, a Terminal Disclaimer is being filed herewith to obviate the rejection.

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Dated: July 9, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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